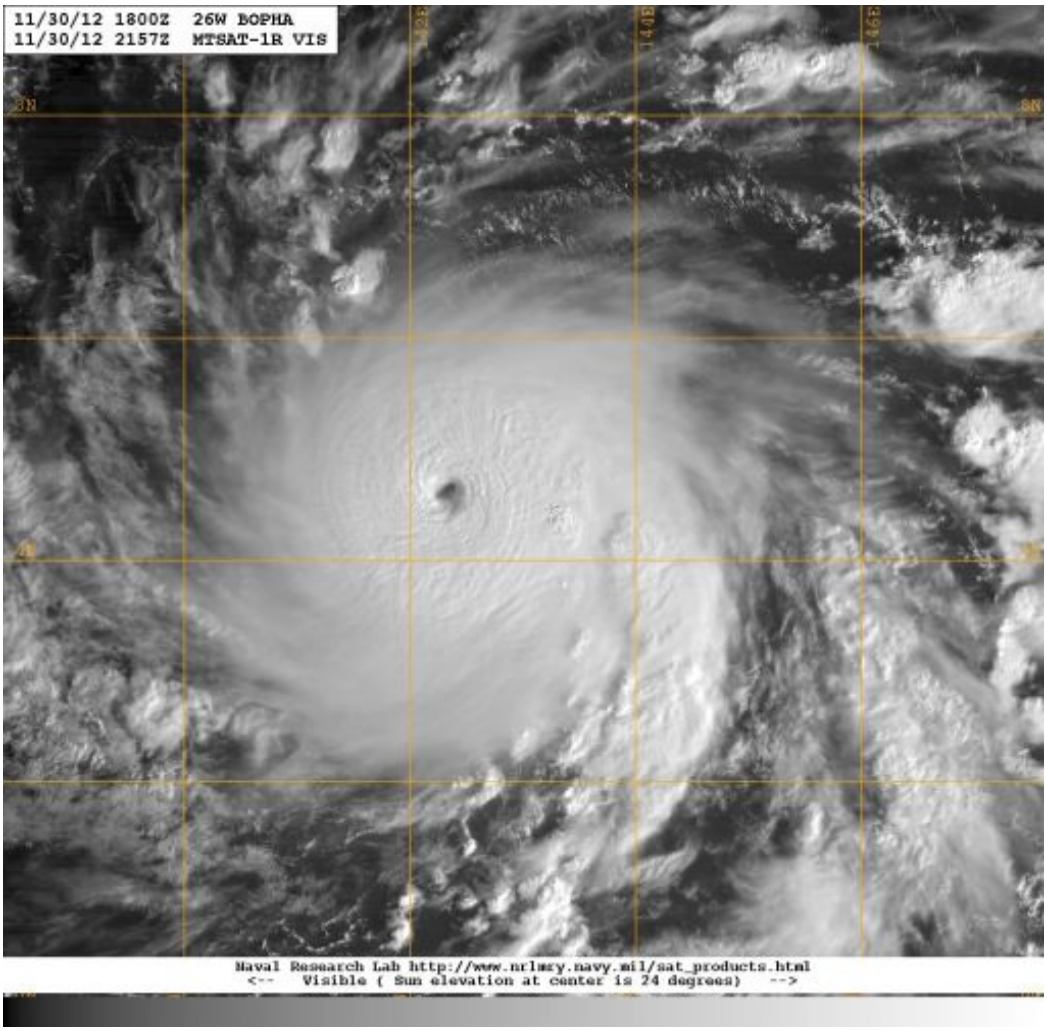
Typhoon Bopha on course for southern Philippines

Description

Typhoon Bopha is set to bring strong winds and heavy rain to the island of Mindanao and other parts of the southern Philippines during Tuesday. Almost a year ago Tropical Storm Washi caused devastation in this region with the loss of over 1200 lives. Typhoon Bopha is far stronger and likely to make landfall in the same place at around midnight UK time.

Typhoon Bopha has already had an impact on the island republic of Palau causing a loss of power, wind damage and flooding, although the eye of the typhoon passed south of the main island sparing it from the worst effects. After a short period of weakening, Bopha has restrengthened to the equivalent of a category 5 hurricane and is likely to produce winds up to 150 mph and heavy rain as it makes landfall in the Philippines causing structural damage, flooding and landslides. Relief agencies are watching the situation closely, ready to respond to the unfolding situation.

Typhoon Bopha is one of the lowest latitude storms for many years. Tropical cyclones rarely form closer than about five degrees of latitude (500 km) from the equator. This is because the coriolis effect, which causes storms to spin, is not strong. However, Typhoon Bopha became a typhoon at just 3.8 degrees from the equator. This makes Bopha the lowest latitude typhoon since Typhoon Vamei in 2001. Bopha continued strengthening and went on to attain what some agencies refer to as ‘super typhoon’ status (1-minute mean winds near 150 mph). This occurred at 6.1 degrees from the equator – just 0.1 degree shy of the record set by Super Typhoon Kate in 1970.



Satellite image showing Typhoon Bopha 30th November 2012

Regional warnings for Typhoon Bopha are produced by the Japanese Meteological Agency (JMA) and the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA). The Met Office routinely supplies predictions of typhoon tracks from its global forecast model to regional meteorological centres worldwide, which are used along with guidance from other models in the production of forecasts and guidance.

You can keep up to date with tropical cyclones around the world on our website or follow us on Twitter.

Date Created
December 2012

Cold weather clue in upper atmosphere

Description

During a period of colder than average weather across northern Europe in February this year we issued a blog discussing potential causes – including changes in circulation high up in the atmosphere.

We also discussed these disruptions, known as Sudden Stratospheric Warmings (SSWs), in a news release about advances in predicting these events in our long-range guidance for winters.

SSWs happen when the usual westerly winds in the stratosphere, between 10km and 50km up, are disrupted, break down and even reverse.

This signal can then burrow down to the lower atmosphere over the course of a few days to a few weeks, thereby reducing the westerly winds at lower levels.

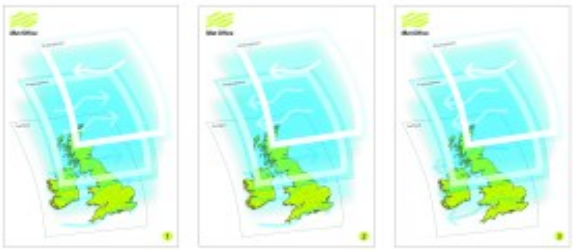


Figure illustrates how reversal of winds in the stratosphere ‘burrows’ down to surface level.

For the UK in winter, that means a disruption to the westerly flow that usually brings mild air from the Atlantic and there is a potential to allow easterly winds to take hold, bringing in cold air from the continent.

So SSWs can herald cold weather ahead. However, there are variations in their magnitude – sometimes they are fairly minor, just a ‘wobble’ in the flow of the stratospheric winds, but sometimes they are more pronounced, with a complete reversal of the pattern of winds.

The more significant the SSW, the more likely it is to have an impact at the surface and also the greater the potential impact.

Met Office observation systems have picked up a minor SSW in the stratosphere over the past few days, suggesting that this may have an impact on the UK.

Jeff Knight, a Climate Scientist at the Met Office, said: “Satellite and other observation data show that there is a minor SSW going on and this is one factor amongst many others which could perpetuate the colder than average conditions we have seen recently.

“It could take anything from a few days to a few weeks if it is going to have an impact. However, it’s consistent with the current 30-day outlook from the Met Office which favours colder than average conditions – albeit with a fair amount of uncertainty.”

The Met Office will continue to monitor the situation and, as ever, will keep everyone up to date on any periods of cold weather through our forecasts and warnings.

Date Created
December 2012

The meteorology behind the ‘Beast from the East’

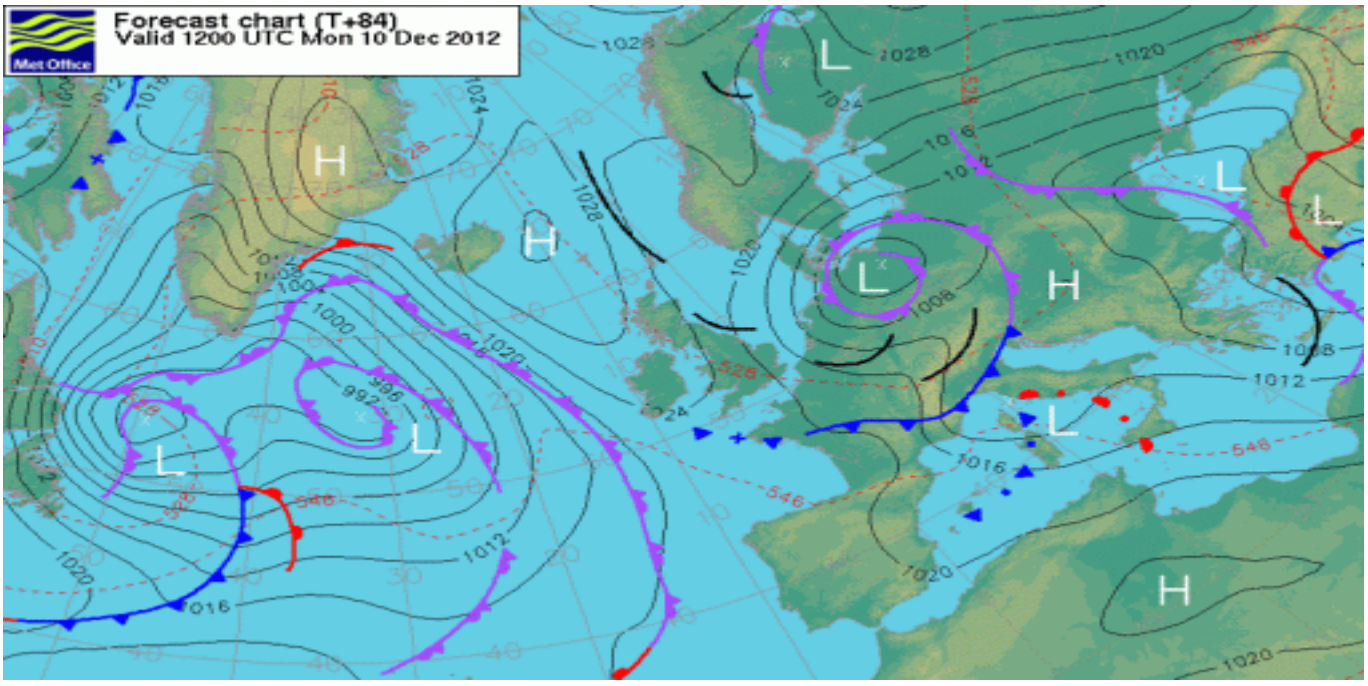
Description

Update: See how the weather situation for the coming week has developed over the weekend: How the ‘pest from the west’ will beat the ‘Beast from the East’

The *‘Beast from the East’* – not the Grammy nominated live album of 1988 from heavy rock band Dokken – but the phrase being used to describe what looks set to be some cold and wintry conditions to the UK next week has been mentioned in many newspapers today.

But what actually is the meteorological situation and what is the outlook for next week?

Strictly speaking our weather is not expected to be coming directly from the east next week, but more from the northeast, tracking across the North Sea from Scandinavia, bringing cold north to northeastly winds to our shores. As this cold air moves over the relatively mild North Sea, the air will pick up moisture and become increasing unstable, bringing scattered showers to eastern parts of the country as shown on the chart below.



The showers are most likely across eastern parts of Scotland and northern England on Monday.

Although next week will certainly be very cold, especially compared to a brief respite from the cold conditions over the coming weekend, at the moment it is not expected to be as cold as the bitter conditions we saw back in December 2010 when temperatures fell to -21.3 deg C on 2nd December at Altnaharra in Scotland, which was the lowest December temperature recorded in the UK since 13th December 1995.

Met Office forecasters will be monitoring this developing weather situation throughout the weekend and will update forecasts and warnings. This will ensure the public has access to the latest weather forecasts that will help them prepare, plan and protect themselves from the impacts of the snow and icy conditions expected next week.

Met Office Cold Weather Alerts have been issued for the whole of England as the forecast weather could increase the health risks to vulnerable patients.

The latest forecasts and warnings can be found on the Met Office website, on our mobile apps and through TV and radio broadcasts on the BBC and ITV.

Related articles

- How the 'pest from the west' will beat the 'Beast from the East' (metofficenews.wordpress.com)
- Cold weather clue in upper atmosphere (metofficenews.wordpress.com)
- Snow Alert: Cold Weather 'Beast' To Hit UK (news.sky.com)
- London to freeze as 'beast from the East' weather front moves in (standard.co.uk)
- Get ready for the 'Beast from the East': Siberian winds to blast Britain with ice, snow and freezing temperatures after weekend's respite (dailymail.co.uk)

Date Created
December 2012

Nacreous or ‘mother of pearl’ cloud sightings

Description

Yesterday there was several sightings of an iridescent cloud in Scotland shared with us on Twitter and Facebook.

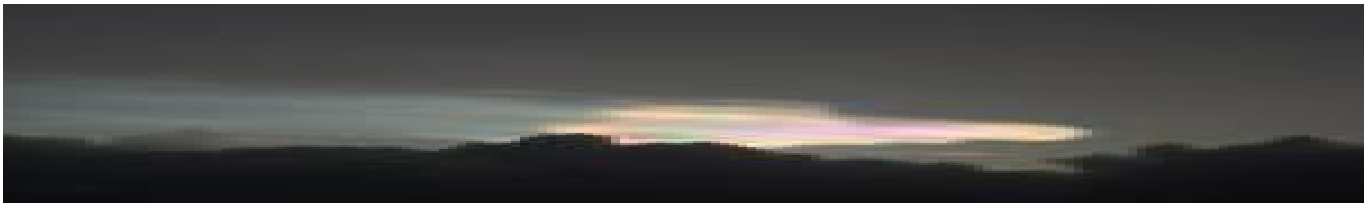


Photo by Christine Wackett in Pitsligo

Photo by @Bryce9A in Deeside, Scotland

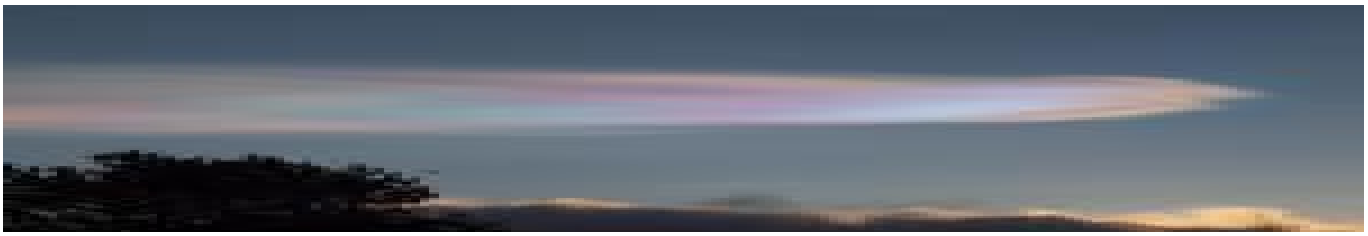


Photo by Douglas Campbell in Inverurie, Scotland

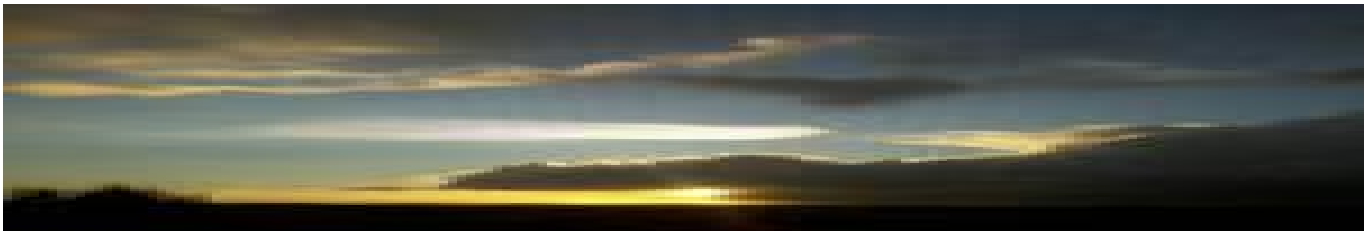


Photo by AlanAnna HayBatty

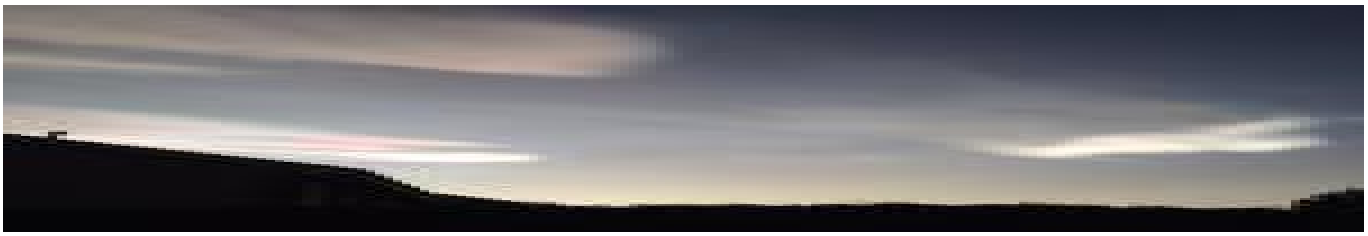


Photo by @222photo taken in Aberdeen

As we did not observe the cloud ourselves and are only seeing the pictures, it's not possible to be 100% certain, however it is most likely that these are nacreous clouds, also known as mother of pearl clouds.

This eye-catching cloud is rarely seen, and has only been sighted in polar regions (such as Scotland and Norway) in the winter months, especially when there is a low over northern Scandinavia with a strong west/north-westerly wind blowing over Scotland. They only form in the lower stratosphere – around 15 miles up – when temperatures here are below -78 °C.

Although nacreous clouds are brightest when the sun is just below the horizon, illuminating them from below, they can also still be seen several hours after the sun has gone down.

Have you seen any interesting weather phenomenons lately? Add your pictures to our Facebook page or tweet them to us @metoffice.

Visit our website for more information on cloud spotting.

Date Created
December 2012

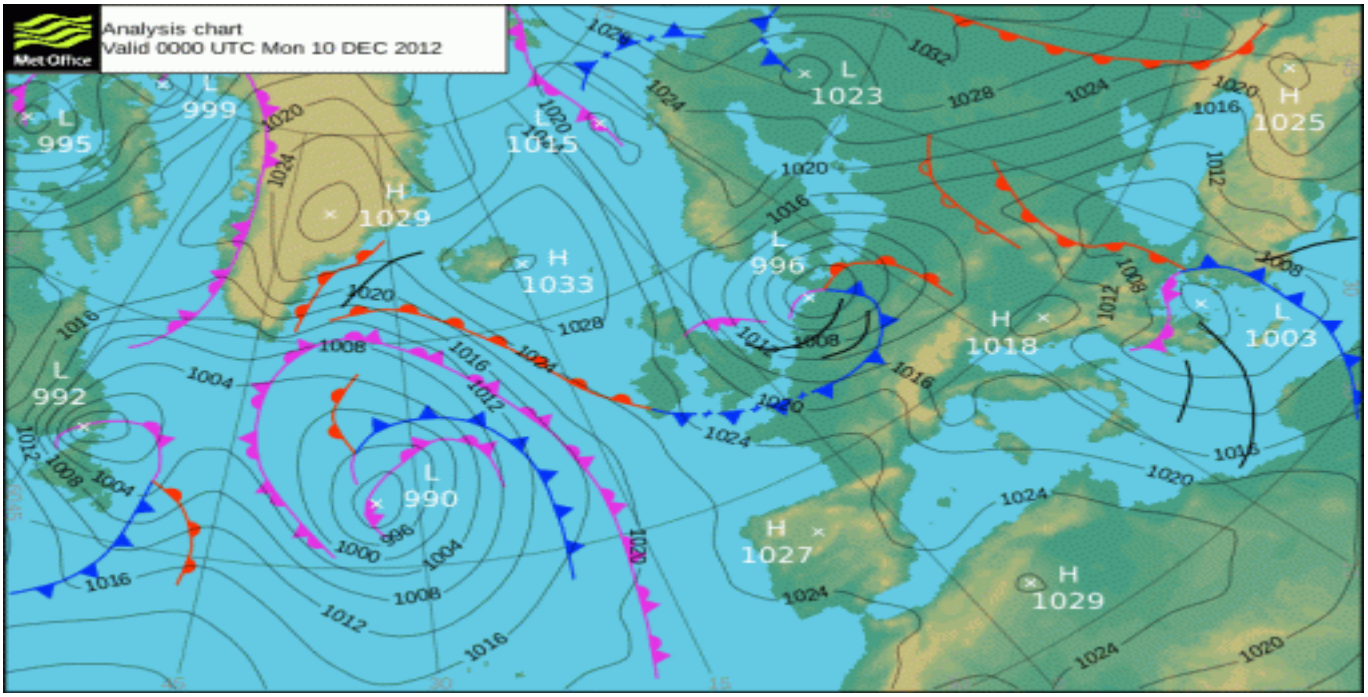
How the ‘pest from the west’ will beat the ‘Beast from the East’

Description

There was much talk at the end of last week about the ‘Beast from the East’ being set to bring some cold and wintry conditions to the UK this week. However, the balance in the atmosphere has changed and the current cold weather looks set to be replaced by milder, wetter weather by the end of the week.

So what has happened in the atmosphere to bring such a dramatic change in the forecast?

As expected at the end of last week, we do have winds blowing from the northeast, tracking across the North Sea from Scandinavia and bringing scattered showers to eastern parts of the country as shown on the chart below. So, we can expect a couple of days of cold and mainly dry weather with a few showers in eastern counties, sharp frosts and some freezing fog at night.



The atmosphere is always finely balanced and for the ‘Beast from the East’ to really ‘bear’ its teeth the high pressure area over Greenland would need to develop and draw the wind in from Europe. It now looks like this is not going to happen and instead the depression to the west of the UK is going to win the atmospheric battle and bring heavy rain and strong winds to us all from Thursday.

Met Office forecasters will be monitoring this developing weather situation throughout the week and have already issued warnings to give advanced notice of the potential impacts from the heavy rain in some parts of the country.

The latest forecasts and warnings can be found on the Met Office website, on our mobile apps and

through TV and radio broadcasts on the BBC and ITV.

Related articles

- The meteorology behind the ‘Beast from the East’ (metofficenews.wordpress.com)

Date Created
December 2012

Top ten: weather related songs

Description

1. Let It Snow by various artists.

2. Mr Blue Sky by ELO.

3. Walking On Sunshine by Katrina and the Waves.

4. It’s Raining Men by The Weather Girls.

5. Here Comes The Sun by The Beatles.

6. Purple Rain by Prince.

7. Why Does It Always Rain On Me? by Travis.

8. November Rain by Guns and Roses.

9. Sunshine On A Rainy Day by Zoe.

10. Weather With You by Crowded House.

They didn’t make our top ten, but some of our favourites included ‘Under Pressure’ by Queen and David Bowie and The Flood by Take That.

Date Created
December 2012

What is freezing fog?

Description

Fog has affected many areas over the last couple of days, which in some places has been freezing.

Freezing fog forms in the same way as ‘normal’ fog and is typical in winter, aided by clear skies and calm conditions. The cooling of land overnight under clear skies means that any heat radiates back into space cooling the air close to the surface. This reduces the ability of the air to hold moisture, allowing condensation of water vapour into millions of tiny water droplets to occur and fog in to form.

When temperatures are well below freezing, the tiny water droplets suspended in the air are made up of supercooled water droplets – which remain liquid even though the temperature is below freezing. This occurs because the liquid needs a surface to freeze upon, such as a dust or pollution particles. However if there are not enough of these particles about then the water can stay as a liquid.

However droplets from freezing fog can freeze to surfaces on contact, forming rime. Often confused with frost, rime is a rough white deposit formed of feathery ice crystals. It can often be seen on vertical surfaces exposed to the wind – like lamp posts and pylons – as the supercooled water droplets freeze on contact as they drift past.

With warnings in force for fog people are advised to take extra care when driving in affected areas with journeys taking longer than usual. By being ‘weather aware’ our warnings help you prepare, plan and protect yourself from the impacts of severe weather.

Visit our website for more information on different types of fog.

Date Created

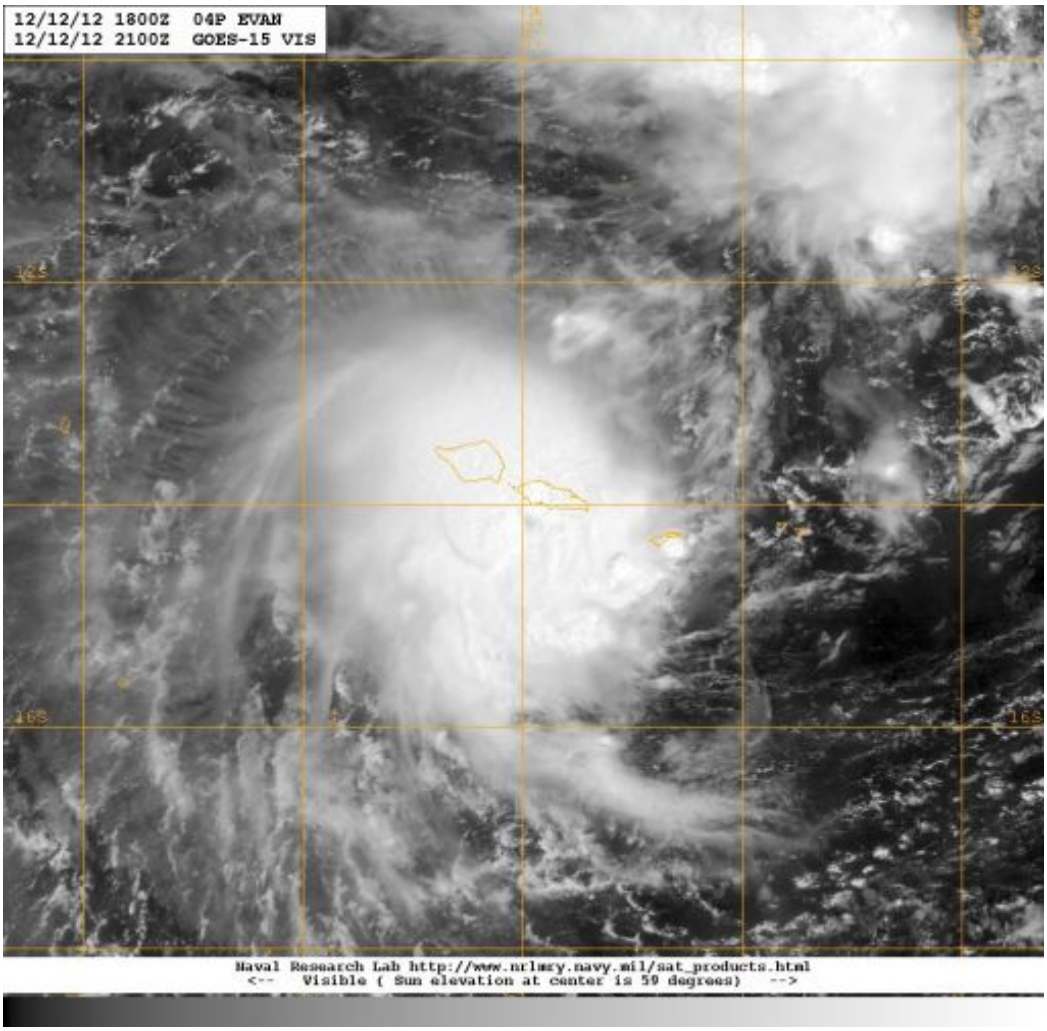
December 2012

Cyclone Evan strikes Samoa

Description

Towards the end of every year tropical storm activity moves from the northern hemisphere to the southern hemisphere. The South Indian Ocean has already spawned three tropical storms including the unusually strong early season Cyclone Anais in October. Attention has now switched to the South Pacific Ocean and Cyclone Evan.

Evan formed near Fiji a few days ago and moved north-east as it strengthened. As it reached the equivalent of hurricane intensity (winds near 75 mph) it made landfall over Samoa close to the capital city of Apia. Although winds of this strength are not exceptional for a cyclone, first reports indicate considerable wind damage and flooding from a storm surge of 12-15 feet (3.5-4.5 m). This storm surge is of similar height to that experienced in New York City during ‘Superstorm’ Sandy in October.



Visible satellite image of Cyclone Evan on 12 December 2012

Although Samoa lies within the cyclone belt of the South Pacific Ocean, the island nation has been relatively storm free for many years. Cyclone Heta passed close by in 2003, but the last time Samoa received direct strikes from tropical storms was in 1997 and 1998 by storms named Tui and, coincidentally, Evan.

To make matters worse, Cyclone Evan is expected to become slow moving near Samoa and American Samoa, producing large amounts of rainfall, before turning back south-west. Latest forecasts suggest Evan will strengthen some more and could threaten a strike on Fiji early next week.

Regional warnings for Cyclone Evan are produced by the Fiji Meteorological Service. The Met Office routinely supplies predictions of cyclone tracks from its global forecast model to regional meteorological centres worldwide, which are used along with guidance from other models in the production of forecasts and guidance.

You can keep up to date with tropical cyclones around the world on our website or follow us on Twitter.

Date Created
December 2012

November 2012 weather summary video and your pictures

Description

November saw an exceptionally wet spell of weather towards the end of the month causing widespread disruption from flooding and landslips. In this video, forecaster Helen explains the weather that characterised November.

We've also included some of your photos of November weather that you sent in via Twitter and Facebook. Send in your December photos and you could feature next month!

Your weather photos

This slideshow requires JavaScript.

Date Created
December 2012

Be weather aware with our Windows Phone 8 app

Description

The Met Office has launched its latest addition to mobile forecasts with a specially designed app for Windows Phone 8.

Since it's launch in the last two weeks it has garnered some very positive reviews with Windows Phone Central saying:

> "We're always pleased to see official apps hit the platform but even more so when those apps are truly useful. … this [app] stands out for a few reasons. The Met Office is the UK's National Weather Service and is therefore the trusted supplier of weather information to everyone from the military or the man on the street".

In addition All About Windows Phone said:

> "The standout feature of the Met Office app is the quality of the data on offer…. it's hard to think of another weather app, for Windows Phone, that provides this amount of detail for those in the UK. …Given that the Met Office app is a free download, we would strongly recommend that anyone living in the UK download it… There's a good chance that you'll make your friends living outside the UK rather jealous!"

The new Met Office Windows Phone 8 weather app is the latest addition to our range of products for smart phone users and provides easy access to the latest weather forecasts and warnings wherever you are, 24 hours a day.

The App gives you three hourly forecasts and five day weather predictions. In addition to the likelihood of rain or snow, sunshine, cloud coverage and temperature, it gives the "feels-like" temperature – ideal if it's 10 °C but will actually feel like 3 °C accounting for the wind chill factor.

As well as users having access to local, up to date forecasts from the Met Office, the new weather app includes a number of features unique to Windows Phone 8. These include 'live tiles' reflecting the current weather at your saved location and the use of 'augmented reality' to overlay forecast data on the camera image of where you are facing.

The Windows 8 Toast (notification) feature also means that you will never miss a weather warning for your area, helping you to stay weather aware so that you can prepare, plan and protect yourself from the impacts of severe weather.

The Met Office Windows Phone 8 weather app is available free of charge from the Windows Phone 8 app store. We also provides Apps for Android and iPhone, available from the Apple app store and the Android Market.

Related articles

- Review: Met Office (UK weather) (allaboutwindowsphone.com)
- Official Met Office App released for Windows Phone 8 (wpcentral.com)

Date Created
December 2012

2012 hurricane season comes to an end

Description

This year saw another active season in the North Atlantic with 19 named storms, of which 10 became hurricanes.

Both the number of named storms and hurricanes were well above the 1980–2010 averages of 12 and six respectively. However, only one of these (Michael) became a major hurricane, which is below the average of three.

Unusual season

It has been an unusual season in many respects. This is the third year in a row with 19 named storms, which is unprecedented in the historical records. Only one other season – 2005, which saw the devastating Hurricane Katrina – has experienced more named storms (28) since reliable records began in 1944.

The season has also been notable for the high number of relatively short-lived storms, with seven of the nine tropical storms lasting just two days or less. These storms contribute towards a high storm count, but relatively little towards the Accumulated Cyclone Energy (ACE) index – a measure of the combined strength and duration of all named storms in the season.

Joanne Camp, a long-range hurricane forecaster at the Met Office, explained that having so many short-lived and relatively weak tropical storms was a notable feature of the season: “If you look at the long-term record, this is unusual – but it has been an increasing trend over recent years.

“It is almost certainly due to the improvement of technology, such as satellites, which allows us to observe developments over the North Atlantic in ever greater detail. This means that we are now identifying storms that could previously have gone undetected.”

Many storms – but not much power

Because such a high proportion of this season’s storms were short-lived and weak, the ACE index was only moderately above average at 127. The average is 104. Many seasons in the historical record have had a much lower total tropical storm count, but much higher ACE index, for example the 2004 season recorded only 14 named storms but an ACE index of 225 – nearly twice that seen in 2012.

The Met Office public forecast for the North Atlantic hurricane season, which is issued in May, continued its run of providing good guidance on the ACE index – with this year’s actual total well within the predicted range. On the number of storms, the total of 19 this year is outside of the forecast range.

Chris Landsea, Science and Operations Officer at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, said: “Because we are now better able identify weak, short-lived tropical storms than we were just 15 to 20 years ago, a simple count of how many storms occur in a season is perhaps not the most representative measure of how active a season has been. Using ACE index or number of hurricanes

would be a more stable measure, less prone to changes in technology during the last 40-50 years."

Experimental forecasts run by the Met Office during the 2012 season show that there is skill for forecasting the number of hurricanes. In May 2012 the Met Office predicted that the most likely number of hurricanes to occur during June to November 2012 would be six, with a 70% chance that the number would be in the range two to ten. In the event ten hurricanes occurred.

Significant storms

The most notable storm of the 2012 season was Hurricane Sandy (also referred to as Superstorm Sandy), which became one of the largest storms on record, measuring over 1000 miles across. The storm resulted in 253 deaths (at least 122 of those in the Caribbean) and is estimated to have caused over $65 billion in damage – making it the second most costly hurricane in US history, behind Hurricane Katrina.

GOES-13 natural-color image of Hurricane Sandy at 17:45 UTC on October 28, 2012. CREDIT: NOAA/NASA GOES Project.

The Caribbean also experienced a number of tropical storms during 2012 season. Hurricane Isaac caused severe damage in Haiti and eastern Cuba before making landfall along the northern Gulf Coast of the USA. Tropical Storm Rafael passed close to Puerto Rico and the British Virgin Islands. Hurricane Sandy made landfall over Jamaica and Cuba before heading to the northeast coast of the USA and Hurricane Ernesto made landfall over Central America.

No major hurricanes (those registering category 3-5 on the Saffir-Simpson hurricane wind scale) have made landfall in the US since Wilma in 2005 – a near-record length of time.

Longer-term trends

Overall the relatively high level of Atlantic hurricane activity continues a trend which started in 1995,

with most years since then being above-average. To assess long-term cycles in North Atlantic hurricane activity the Met Office is trialling experimental forecasts for up to five years ahead.

While this research continues, the Met Office's hurricane experts will continue to monitor the drivers of tropical storm activity over the next few months as they prepare the first forecast for next year's season, which will be issued in March 2013. The main public forecast will be released in May 2013.

Further details on the 2012 season can be found in this year's verification report (PDF, 1 MB).

For regular updates on tropical cyclones worldwide follow @metofficestorms on Twitter.

Date Created
December 2012

Will it snow this Christmas?

Description

With just over a week to go to Christmas Day we are being asked whether the cold weather will return to give us a white Christmas.

Unfortunately it's still a little too early to say exactly what the weather will bring to the UK on the big day, but it does look as though the early predictions quoted in the press of snow falling in many places on Christmas Day and more recent white Christmas is "a dead cert" could end up being somewhat wide of the mark.

The current Met Office UK Outlook for Sunday 23 Dec 2012 to Tuesday 1 Jan 2013 suggests that the unsettled conditions we have at the moment are expected to continue until the New Year:

"The rather changeable weather is likely to persist into the beginning of January with low pressure expected to be dominant near the British Isles. The north of the UK is most likely to see colder than average conditions, with relatively typical amounts of rainfall. During the same period, temperatures over the south are likely to be closer to average whilst rainfall amounts may be a little above average. Uncertainty then increases significantly into the final week of the period, with no clear weather type favoured, perhaps indicating less unsettled conditions."

Of course we will continue to update the forecast as Christmas approaches, with the first forecast for the day itself published on our website later this week.

So if you are in search of a white Christmas signs are that many of us may be a little disappointed again this year, but you can find out more about white Christmases in the UK in the following video:

Date Created
December 2012

Top ten: Snowiest Christmas days

Description

Snow at Christmas is recorded in two ways – the number of stations that reported snow falling, and the number of stations that recorded snow on the ground at 9 am. The two charts show the snowiest Christmases for both measures since 1959.

The snowiest Christmas in terms of snow on the ground was in 2010, when 83% of stations recorded snow.

	Year	Percentage of stations reporting snow lying
1	2010	83%
2	2009	57%
3	1981	52%
4	1995	40%
5	2004	34%
6	1999	30%
7	1964	22%
8	1993	21%
9	1970	20%

10	1968	14%

The year when the highest number of stations reported snow falling was 2004, when 61% of stations reported snowfall.

Year	Percentage of stations reporting snowfall	
1	2004	61%
2	1970	57%
3	1993	51%
4	1995	49%
5	1964	47%
6	1968	43%
7	1999	42%
8	2001	40%
9	2000	35%
10	1966	31%

Visit our website to see the full history of snow at Christmas or find out how much snow we get in the UK each year.

Related articles

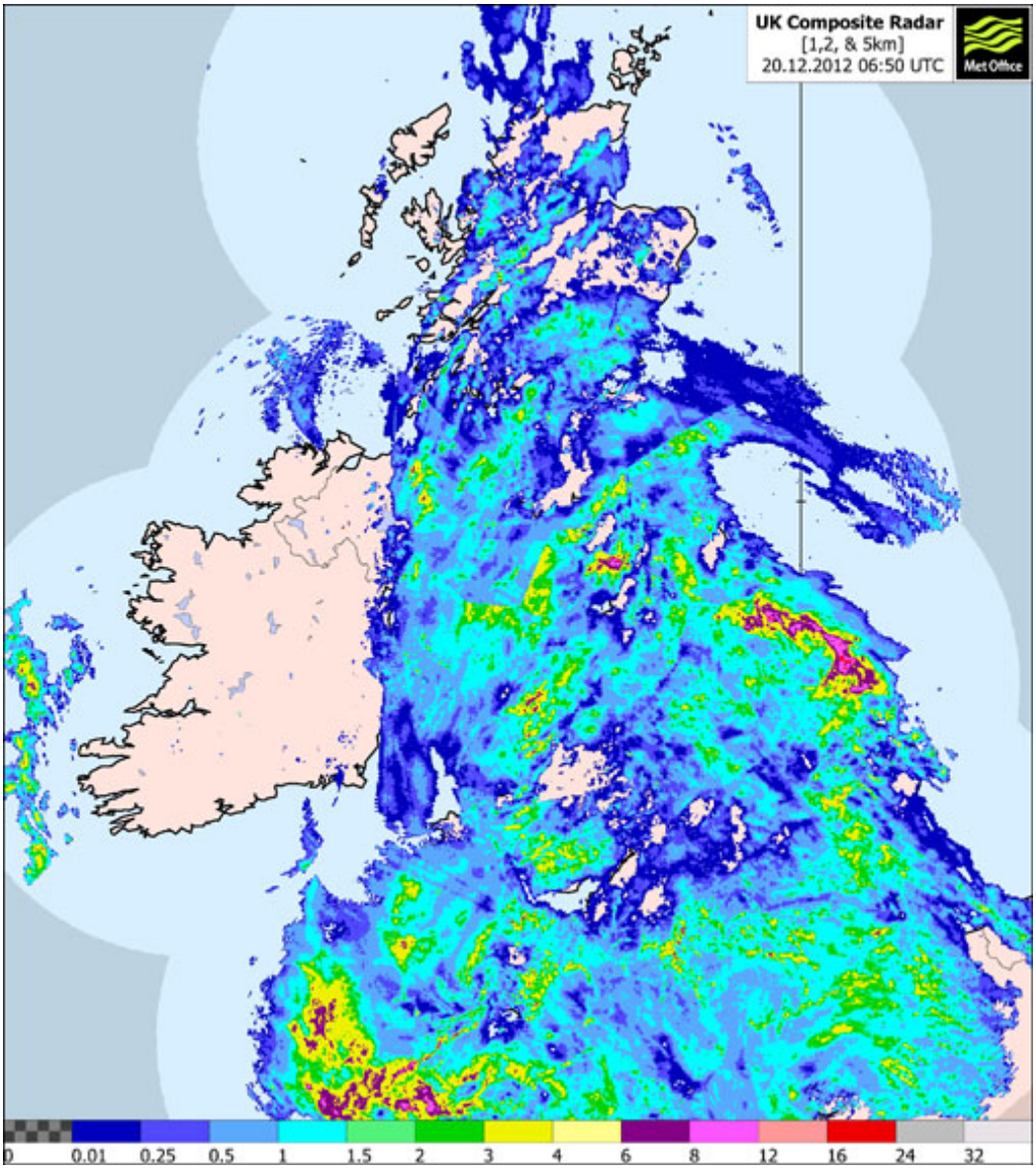
- Will it snow this Christmas? (metofficenews.wordpress.com)

Date Created
December 2012

Persistent rainfall across the UK

Description

We all know the UK sees a good deal of rainfall, but it’s not often you cannot see the country at all on a rainfall radar image like the one below.



Rainfall radar image from 6.50 am this morning

As you can see from the picture, taken from 6.50 am this morning, rain is falling widely across a large part of the UK.

Some places have seen persistent rain since the early hours of yesterday (Wednesday) morning, with

some fairly high rainfall totals.

Rainfall totals in the table below are from 00:00 am on 19 December to 10:00 am on 20 December

Station	Area	Rainfall (mm)
Plymouth, Mountbatten	Devon	55
Cardinham, Bodmin	Cornwall	54.6
Camborne	Cornwall	49.2
Tredegar, Bryn Bach Park	Gwent	44.8
Thorney Island	West Sussex	43.6
Hurn	Dorset	42.8
Cardiff, Bute Park	South Glamorgan	42
Shoreham Airport	West Sussex	41
Usk	Monmouthshire	40
Ballypatrick Forest	Antrim	39.8

More rain is expected to fall over the next few days, which is likely to cause localised flooding and disruption to travel in the run up to the festive period.

During this period of unsettled weather we'd advise people to stay up to date with the Met Office's weather forecasts and warnings.

If heading out on a journey, check local traffic updates and allow additional time for potential for delays.

Date Created
December 2012

Heavy rain brings over 100mm of rain to parts of Scotland – rainfall totals across the UK

Description

There has been some very wet weather across much of the UK seeing well over an inch of rain in the last 24 hours. The wettest place in the UK, in the 48 hours to 6 am this morning is Tyndrum, Perthshire with 102.4 mm of rain, with 94.6 mm of this falling in the last 24 hours.

The wettest place in England was Cardinham, Cornwall with 62.8 mm, in Northern Ireland was Ballypatrick Forest, Antrim with 57.8 mm and in Wales it was Tredegar Park with 54.4 mm of rain.

Although there will continue to be some patchy outbreaks of rain across eastern parts of Scotland today, generally the rain will continue to ease leaving a drier day for many, before more heavy rain pushes into the southwest of England later this evening and across Scotland tomorrow morning.

48 hour UK Rainfall Totals 19 Dec 0600 am – 21 Dec 0600 am
Stations recording more than 40 mm

SITE NAME	AREA	PRECIP AMOUNT(mm)
TYNDRUM	PERTHSHIRE	102.4
CARTERHOUSE	ROXBURGHSHIRE	68.2
CARDINHAM, BODMIN	CORNWALL	62.8
SHAP	CUMBRIA	61.6
BALLYPATRICK FOREST	ANTRIM	57.8
PLYMOUTH, MOUNTBATTEN	DEVON	55.6
STRATHALLAN AIRFIELD	PERTHSHIRE	54.6
TREDEGAR, BRYN BACH PARK	GWENT	54.4
PATELEY BRIDGE, RAVENS NEST	NORTH YORKSHIRE	53.8
RAVENSWORTH	NORTH YORKSHIRE	53.4
BINGLEY	WEST YORKSHIRE	51.8
DUNDRENNAN	KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE	50.8
THORNEY ISLAND	WEST SUSSEX	49.4
SHOREHAM AIRPORT	WEST SUSSEX	49.2
USK	MONMOUTHSHIRE	48.4
NOTTINGHAM, WATNALL	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	48.4
CARDIFF, BUTE PARK	SOUTH GLAMORGAN	48.2
HURN	DORSET	47.8
MURLOUGH	DOWN	46.6
THREAVE	KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE	45.8
WEST FREUGH	WIGTOWNSHIRE	45.6
LEUCHARS	FIFE	45

MUMBLES HEAD	WEST GLAMORGAN	45
CAPEL CURIG	GWYNEDD	44.8
RONALDSWAY	ISLE OF MAN	44
BRAMHAM	WEST YORKSHIRE	43.6
GLASGOW, BISHOPTON	RENFREWSHIRE	43
DISHFORTH AIRFIELD	NORTH YORKSHIRE	42.8
HAMPSTEAD	GREATER LONDON	41.4
SWANAGE	DORSET	41
CAMBORNE	CORNWALL	40.8
SENNYBRIDGE	POWYS	40.8
TRAWSGOED	DYFED	40.4

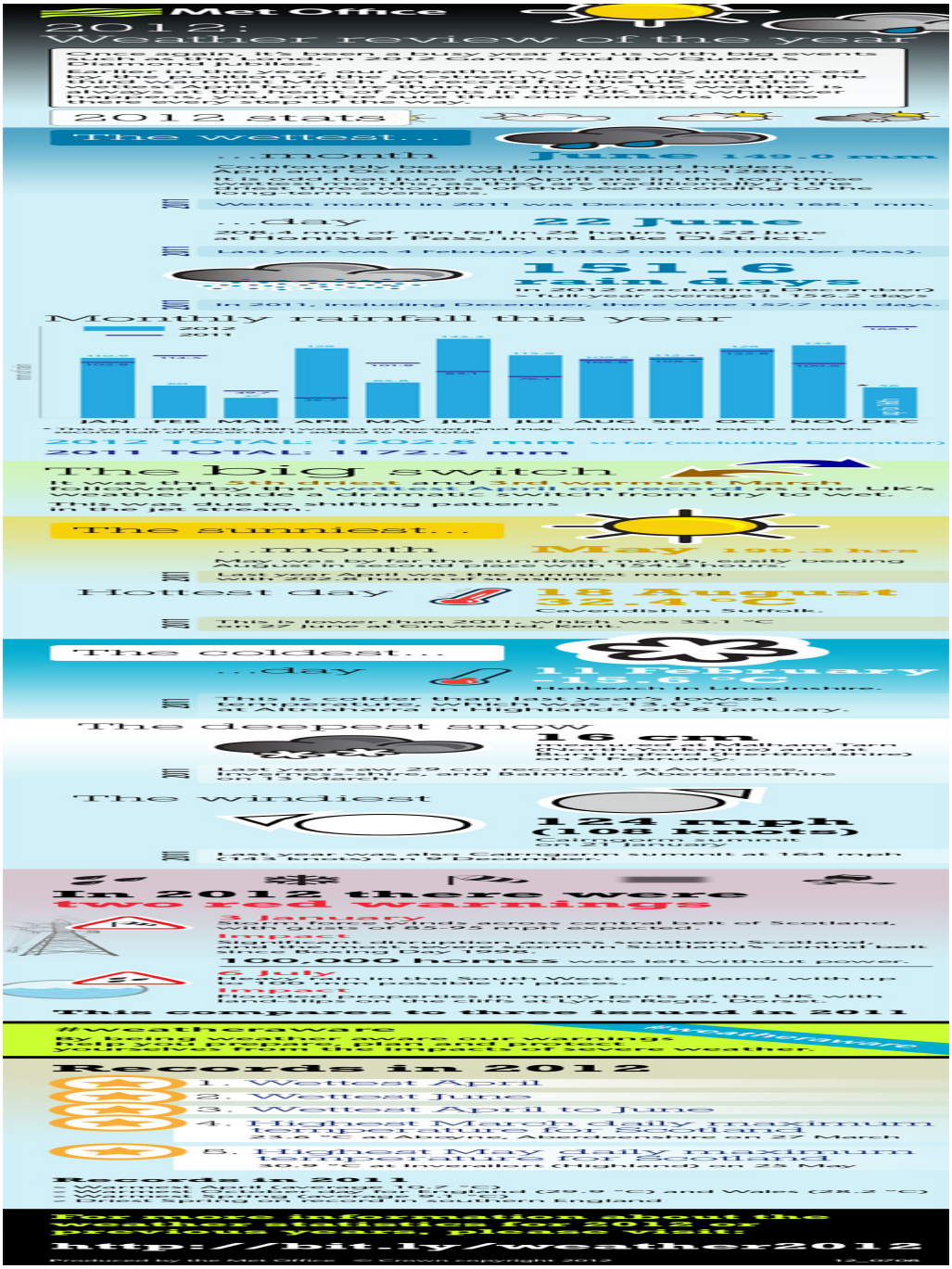
As the wet weather continues into the weekend we have issued a number of severe weather warnings. It is important people are weather aware by staying up to date with these during this period of unsettled weather. Amber warnings mean you need to be prepared for the weather and take steps to change your plans and protect you and your family or community from the impacts of the severe weather based on the forecast from the Met Office. We'd advise people in the areas affected to expect some disruption and take precautions if they are in an area at risk from heavy rain and flooding.

Date Created
December 2012

Infographic: 2012 weather review of the year

Description

Hover over the image to link through to more detail on the UK weather in 2012.



Date Created
December 2012

Recent rainfall totals

Description

Rain has continued to cause disruption across parts of the UK, with overnight rain adding to significant totals over the past few days.

The wettest place in the UK (and Scotland) since the heavy rainfall began on 19th December to 6am this morning has been Tyndrum in Perthshire, with 155.0 mm of rain.

Cardinham near Bodmin, Cornwall, is the wettest place in England with 128.8 mm of rain and the wettest place in Wales has been Mumbles Head, West Glamorgan, with 107.0 mm of rain.

Ballypatrick Forest in Antrim has been the wettest place in Northern Ireland, with 89.0 mm of rain.

Some areas have exceeded their full-month December average since the 19th – such as Plymouth, Devon, which has seen 128.8mm of rain compared to a December average of 118.8 mm.

Below is a table of the wettest places in the UK from 0000 HRS on 19th December to 0600 HRS today, 24th December. The final column shows the monthly average for December, clearly showing some places have exceeded their monthly totals:

SITE NAME	AREA	PRECIP AMOUNT(mm)	DEC AVG(mm)
TYNDRUM	PERTHSHIRE	155.0	300.9
CARDINHAM	CORNWALL	128.8	155.1
PLYMOUTH	DEVON	127.4	118.8
LISCOMBE	SOMERSET	125.2	171.2
OKEHAMPTON	DEVON	115.0	184.2
MUMBLES HEAD	WEST GLAMORGAN	107.0	110.3
TREDEGAR	GWENT	102.2	169.0
CARDIFF, BUTE PARK	SOUTH GLAMORGAN	97.0	125.3
SENNYBRIDGE NO 2	POWYS	96.2	179.5
ST ATHAN	SOUTH GLAMORGAN	93.2	122.4
DYCE	ABERDEENSHIRE	92.4	76.1
CARTERHOUSE	ROXBURGHSHIRE	92.4	132.0
CRAIBSTONE	ABERDEENSHIRE	92.0	79.8
BALLYPATRICK FOREST	ANTRIM	89.0	133.9

There is more unsettled weather to come this week, so for the latest information keep up to date with our forecasts and warnings.

Date Created
December 2012

Top ten: Coldest Christmas days

Description

Merry Christmas from the Met Office.

The coldest Christmas day on record was in 2010 (and it was also the snowiest) with a minimum temperature of – 18.2 °C recorded at Altnaharra. The chart below shows the top ten minimum temperatures recorded on Christmas day (excluding high level sites).

	Location	Minimum temperature	Date
1	Altnaharra	– 18.2 °C	25/12/2010
2	West Linton	– 15.6 °C	25/12/1981
3	Altnaharra	– 15.5 °C	25/12/2009
4	Altnaharra	– 12.8 °C	25/12/1996
5	Lagganlia	– 9.5 °C	25/12/1973
6	Dalwhinnie	– 9.4 °C	25/12/1995
7	Aboyne	– 9.4 °C	25/12/2006
8	Kindrogan	– 8.8 °C	25/12/1972
9	Glenlivet	– 8.5 °C	25/12/2000
10	Lower Kingcombe	– 8 °C	25/12/1994
10	Tulloch Bridge	– 8 °C	25/12/2005
10	Aboyne	– 8 °C	25/12/2007

Read more top tens.

Date Created
December 2012

Was it a white Christmas?

Description

Using technology such as radar, webcams and ground based sensors combined with the expert opinion of experienced forecasters, the Met Office is able to declare whether or not (YES or NO) snow fell at the following locations on Christmas Day 2012:

London (Buckingham Palace) NO
Belfast (Aldergrove Airport) NO
Liverpool (Albert Dock) NO
Brize Norton NO
Aberdeen (Pittodrie – Aberdeen FC) NO
Hurn NO
Glasgow Cathedral NO
Marham NO
Edinburgh (Castle) NO
Albemarle NO
Exeter Met Office NO
Filton NO
Manchester (Coronation Street) NO
Andrewsfield NO
Leeds (Elland Road) NO
Waddington NO
Birmingham (Bullring) NO
Watnall NO
Cardiff (Millennium Stadium) NO
Church Fenton NO

Date Created
December 2012

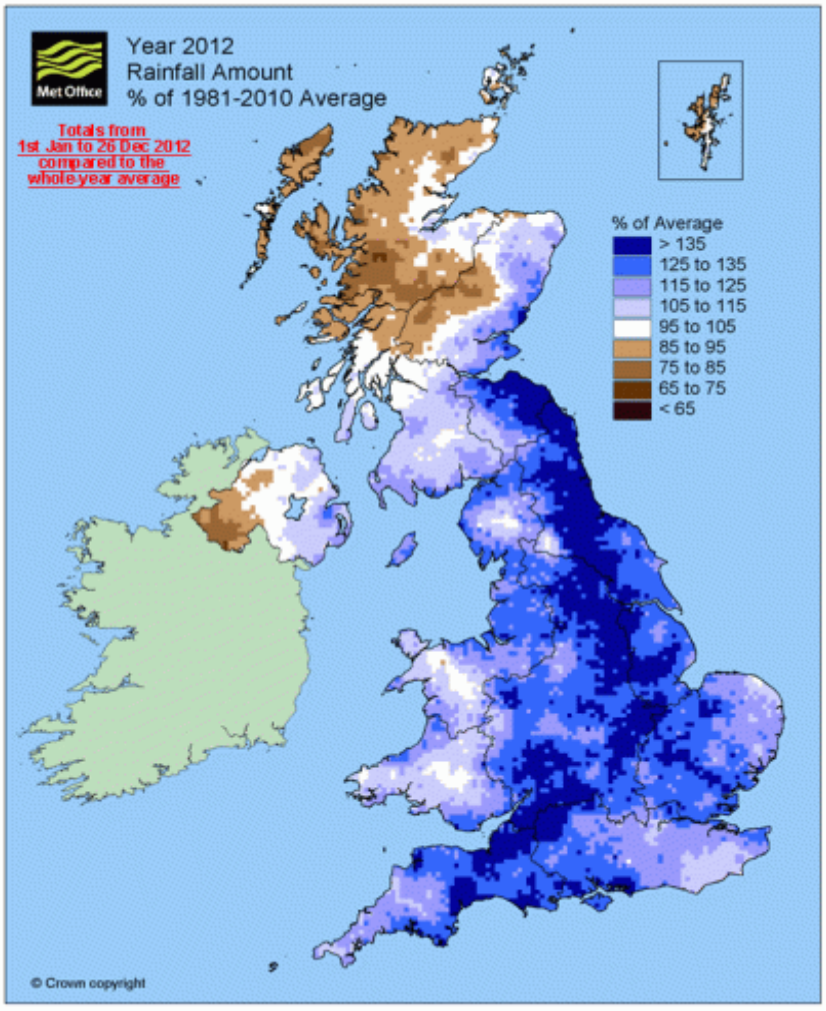
How wet has 2012 been? Is it a record breaker?

Description

Provisional figures from the Met Office from 1 January to 26 December 2012 show that some parts of the UK have already had their wettest year on record.

New records have been set in England (1095.8 mm), northern England (1253 mm), E and NE England (1042.1 mm), Midlands (1048.2 mm), and East Anglia (788 mm), in a series that goes back to 1910.

A further 46 mm of rain is needed from 27 to 31 December for this to be the wettest year on record for the UK overall – the UK has had 1291.2 mm of rain from 1 January to 26 December. The wettest year on record for the UK is 2000 with 1337.3 mm.



2012 rainfall anomaly 1 Jan to 26 Dec

In terms of temperature and sunshine the year as a whole is set to be unremarkable, both beingaround normal. However, overall 2012 is set to be cooler than 2011, but warmer than 2010.

	mean temperature		**sunshine duration**	
1 January to 26 December 2012	**Actual**	**Difference from 1981-2010 average**	**Actual**	**Percentag 2010 avera**
	degC	**degC**	**hours**	**%**
UK	8.7	-0.1	1354.1	99
England	9.5	-0.1	1467.1	98
Wales	9.1	-0.1	1354.0	97
Scotland	7.3	-0.1	1186.8	100
N Ireland	8.9	0.0	1234.0	98
England & Wales	9.5	-0.1	1451.5	98
England N	8.7	-0.1	1357.0	99
England S	9.9	-0.1	1525.4	98

More about the record breaking year of 2012

Date Created
December 2012

Is 2012 the wettest year on record?

Description

We announced last week that 2012 is already the wettest year for England in our records dating back to 1910, but we're still waiting to hear whether it's the wettest on record for the UK.

The latest figures we have for 2012 go from 1 January to 26 December, and show that during that time we've had 1291.2 mm of rain for the UK – meaning it is currently the 4th wettest year on record.

It's 46.1 mm short of the record of 1337.3 mm, set in 2000, so if 46.2 mm of rain falls between 27-31 December we will have a new record.

It's likely to be fairly close-run, but it's impossible to say whether 2012 is a UK record for rainfall until all the data come in from our weather observation sites around the country.

This information should come in on the 1st and 2nd of January, then all the data will need to be processed and we expect to have a provisional answer on Thursday, 3rd January.

We'll post the news here on our blog as soon as all the provisional statistics for 2012 come in.

Date Created
December 2012